

CONFIDENTIAL.]

REPORT

ON

NATIVE PAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

Week ending the 12th January 1901.

CONTENTS.

	Page.		Page.
I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.		(h)—General—	
The Amir of Bokhara helping Russia ...	21	A postal complaint ...	26
Honours for Lord Roberts ...	ib.	The case of the Sub-Postmaster of Shillong ...	ib.
		A postal complaint ...	27
		Abolition of <i>begar</i> in Assam ...	ib.
		Captain Gurdon, Deputy Commissioner of Gauhati, Assam ...	ib.
		Plague administration in Bihar ...	28
		The Hedjaz pilgrimage rules ...	ib.
		Mr. Savage's confirmation as Commissioner of the Dacca Division ...	ib.
		Appointment of British Anglo-Indian Extra Assistant Commissioners in Assam ...	ib.
		An official persecution in Assam ...	29
		The homœopathic M D. degree-holders ...	ib.
		Mr. Nolan's circular ...	ib.
II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.		III.—LEGISLATION.	
(a)—Police—		The Indian Forest Act Amendment Bill ...	ib.
Zamindari oppression in a village in the Rangpur district ...	ib.		
A theatre at Khulna ...	ib.	IV.—NATIVE STATES.	
Police reform ...	22	Nil.	
Quartering of punitive police in a village in the Mymensingh district ...	23	V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.	
(b)—Working of the Courts—		Distress in the 24-Parganas ...	30
The charge of murder against Raja Janaki Ballav Sen of Rangpur ...	ib.		
A Munsif in the Jessore district ...	ib.	VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.	
Administration of civil justice in the Manbhum and Singhbhum districts ...	ib.	India's progress in the Nineteenth Century ...	ib.
(c)—Jails—		The New Year's Day honours ...	ib.
Nil.		Prevention of the misuse of Hindu religious endowments ...	ib.
(d)—Education—		The Nineteenth Century ...	31
Proposed abolition of the inspecting panditships in the Bakergunge district ...	24	Mr. Nolan's circular on the intercourse of European officials with natives ...	32
The Calcutta Medical College fees ...	ib.	The Indian National Congress ...	ib.
The new scheme of vernacular education ...	ib.	Mr. Cotton's kindness to natives ...	ib.
Lower primary examinerships in the Backergunge district ...	25	The Blackhole memorial ...	33
Ill-feeling between a Sub-Inspector and a Head Master in the Chittagong district ...	ib.	The New Year's Day honours ...	34
Reduction of educational expenditure in the Pabna district ...	ib.		
(e)—Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration—		URIYA PAPERS.	
Municipal and other matters relating to a place in the Bankura district ...	ib.	Fraudulent cooly recruitment in Balasore ...	35
(f)—Questions affecting the land—		Effect of Lord Curzon's visit to Puri ...	ib.
Nil.		The Orissa canals ...	ib.
(g)—Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation—		The anglicising of native Princes ...	ib.
Bad roads in the Midnapore district ...	ib.	The statement about scarcity in Angul ...	ib.
A railway complaint ...	26	Vaccination in Orissa ...	ib.
Railway complaints ...	ib.	A tank near Cuttack town ...	36
		ASSAM PAPERS.	
		A ferry ghât exaction and gambling in Barakhala, Assam ...	ib.

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I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

The *Roznama-i-Mukaddas Hablul Mateen* [Calcutta] of the 31st December says that His Highness the Amir of Bokhara has made a handsome donation to the Government of the Czar for the benefit of the Russian troops who are fighting in China. Every year the Amir spends a large sum in building churches and in rendering other services to the Christians. But at no time is he known to have spent a single farthing for the benefit of the Musalmans. The Government of Turkey which is reforming its internal administration is badly in need of money. If the Amir of Bokhara would help that Government with money, he would confer a great boon on Islam. He has not done well by helping Russian troops with money, because such charity will in no way benefit Musalmans generally or his own subjects in particular, who are very low down in the scale of civilization. Thanks are due to the Amir Abdur Rahaman of Cabul who is actively engaged in ameliorating the condition of his own subjects. The other Muhammadañ rulers ought to follow his example.

ROZNAMA-I-MUKADDAS
HABLUL MATEEN,
Dec. 31st, 1900.

2. The *Dainik Chandrika* [Calcutta] of the 7th January has the following:—

DAINIK CHANDRIKA,
Jan. 7th, 1901.

Honours for Lord Roberts.

Lord Roberts has returned to England, and pleased with his heroism, Her Majesty the Queen has made him an Earl. A proposal will also be probably made and sanctioned by Parliament to present him with a purse and thereby place this lacklan Earl in a position of affluence worthy of his new title. This big Boer war was evidently ordained for the benefit of Lord Roberts. All English newspapers are singing his praise and the *Times* says that the fame of Lord Roberts at the commencement of the twentieth century is much like that which was enjoyed by the Victor of Waterloo at the commencement of the nineteenth. Every reader of history knows to what plight Wellington would have been reduced on the field of Waterloo, if Providence had not come to his aid. It was only because the Prussian General with plenty of fresh troops happened to come to the assistance of the broken English columns almost at the close of the battle that the fatigued Napoleon, though he had almost won the day, was ultimately defeated. With the immense army and the infinite resources of the British Government at his back, Lord Roberts could only make a hasty march to Bloemfontein and Pretoria and occupy those two towns. What more has he done in the way of achieving victories? As for the war it is now going on just as it did at the beginning, nay, it is being prosecuted with greater vigour at the present moment. And yet Lord Roberts says that the war has been in a manner brought to an end, only there will be some delay in establishing formal peace.

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

3. The *Rangpur Dikprakash* [Rangpur] of the 27th December says that the amla of Srimati Jarao Kumari Sahiba, zamindar of Balitikari, in the Rangpur district, commits much oppression on the poor raiyats of the village. The manager of the zamindari pays no heed to the complaints which are made to him against these amla.

RANGPUR
DIKPRAKASH,
Dec. 27th, 1900.

4. The *Khulna* [Khulna] of the 3rd January publishes a letter from a tallyman in the goods godown of the Bengal Central Railway at Khulna to his mother, in which he pleads his inability to send her any money, as, from his pay of ten rupees, the promoters of the local theatre compelled him to pay a subscription of one rupee.

KHULNA,
Jan. 3rd, 1901.

The following appears in the editorial columns with reference to this letter:—

We make bold to say that the Magistrate of Khulna has no sympathy with the theatre, because it is impossible for a popular officer like Mr. Mukharji to have any sympathy for such things. Considering the discontent which this theatre has created in the town, it is desirable that the institution should be

abolished. The tallyman's letter to his mother ought to draw the attention of the Traffic Superintendent of the Railway. We have great confidence in and respect for the head goods clerk, Babu Surat Chandra Banerji. It is to be hoped that he will not remain indifferent, but will take steps to put a stop to *Zulm* like that set forth in the poor tallyman's letter.

It is rumoured that most of the promoters of the theatre are Government employes. If so, the Magistrate can have no difficulty in putting a stop to the theatre. The fathers and guardians of schoolboys and the teachers of the several schools ought to draw the Magistrate's attention to the mischief which is likely to be caused by it. They should also be very careful that no ward or pupil of theirs is impressed into the service of the theatre. Already, it is said a search is going on for a boy who would suitably perform the part of Damayanti. No one who remembers anything of the theatre that was started sometime ago, and which is now defunct, will fail to regard any fresh undertaking of the kind with a feeling of abhorrence.

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,
Jan. 4th, 1901.

5. The *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* [Calcutta] of the 4th January has the following:—

Police reform.

The subject of police reform is now receiving much attention. According to some people it is idle to expect any improvement in the police so long as educated men are not admitted into the police service, while others maintain that until Government consents to grant increased pay, fit men will not come forward to accept that service. But no one has as yet gone to the root of the matter and pointed out what is undoubtedly the chief cause of the inefficiency and unpopularity of the police. It is only by discovering that cause and removing it that the present inefficient police can be made efficient. That object will never be fully attained either by the admission of educated men into the police service or by the grant of higher pay. Surely a constable's pay cannot be raised to Rs. 200 or 500, nor can he be expected to possess the educational qualifications of a B.A. or an M.A. Of course, educated men may be appointed higher police officers. But such appointments would increase oppression, for an educated man, inflated by the pride of learning and possessing the large powers with which as a police officer he would be vested, would develop extreme sensitiveness to criticism and grow dangerously vindictive.

That the police is so unpopular is because the higher police authorities are incompetent and show an undue partiality to their subordinates. The scale of salaries obtaining in the Postal Department is low and there are few educated men in the postal service, and yet the Post-Office is one of the most efficient and popular departments of the administration. The reason why this is so is that the Postal Department is the best disciplined branch of the public service, the higher postal authorities possessing a strong sense of duty. They know that the Post-Office has been established to promote public convenience, and they keep this object steadily in view. They do not screen their offending subordinates and do not hesitate to inflict condign punishment even in cases of petty default. The public are not put to any expense in making complaints against postal officers. Such complaints are entertained and promptly enquired into and the offender is, after enquiry, punished. That is why postal employes do not dare to do anything which may dissatisfy the public. There will be no improvement of the police until the Magistrate, the Commissioner, and other high officials cease to show a bias in favour of subordinate police employes and support them in their acts of oppression. No police reform will be possible so long as wrong-doing by the police is sought to be justified and attempts are made to punish the complainants, and so long as magisterial officers are not convinced that the police has been called into existence not for oppressing the people but for protecting them and for preserving the peace. These officers are full of the idea that while the police are their own men—kith and kin—the people are their enemies, that while the police are so many St. Pauls incapable of committing oppression, it is the people who are oppressive. It is their belief that the subordinate Magistrates are hostile to the police and that they deliberately spoil police cases and blame the police. They also believe that while the police are their true friends, the Deputy Magistrates are their enemies, even worse than the amla. Raw and inexperienced boy Magistrates are now seen everywhere. These men who, as a rule, do not understand and care not

to understand business are guided by the police, the sarishtadar and the peshkar. The notes put up by the sarishtadar and the peshkar and the reports submitted by the police are their law and regulation. The order invariably passed on a case in the first instance is "sarishtadar for a note, and to District Superintendent for report." The Deputies are considered untrustworthy fools and rarely consulted by these boy Magistrates. Of course, these Deputies are not so learned as the Civilians, but the latter could save themselves from much discredit by occasionally taking their advice. There are, no doubt, able and good Magistrates like Mr. Oldham of Gaya and Messrs. Wheeler, Duke, Inglis, and Allen, but they are few and far between.

6. The *Nava Yug* [Calcutta] of the 5th January says that the Government of Bengal has decided to quarter a punitive police for six months in mauza Elenga, police station Kalihati, district Mymensingh. Considering the outrages on women which have taken place daily in Mymensingh and the adjoining places, the Government cannot be blamed for taking this step. But the whole village will suffer for the fault of only some of its inhabitants. Government should therefore ask the Subdivisional Officer to make enquiries into the conduct of the inhabitants of the place and should exempt those who are found innocent from the liability to pay the cost of the punitive police.

NAVA YUG,
Jan. 5th, 1901.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

7. The *Rangpur Vartavaha* [Rangpur] of the 21st December has the following:—
The charge of murder against Raja Janaki Ballav Sen of Rangpur. A death under suspicious circumstances took place in the palace of Raja Janaki Ballav Sen of Dimla, in the Rangpur district, and the Raja who was tried on a charge of murder by Mr. Radice, District Magistrate of Rangpur, has been acquitted, the case being pronounced one of suicide. The Magistrate at the time of delivering judgment told the Raja that he was sorry to have put him to unnecessary trouble and expense. How kind-hearted the Magistrate and how great the power of wealth!

RANGPUR
VARTAVAHA,
Dec. 21st, 1900.

The Commissioner of the Division being dissatisfied with the decision went to the palace of the Raja and took down the depositions of the Raja and the District Superintendent of Police. The public also is not satisfied with the Magistrate's decision. But when the dead body has been burnt there is no remedy in the matter. To find out the truth in a case like this, able detectives ought to have been employed and the case ought to have been tried with a cool head. But that was not done. A hurried visit was paid to the Raja's house, one or two mehtars were examined, and final orders were passed. This was a sort of proceeding not likely to yield a good result.

8. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 4th January has learnt from a Magura correspondent in the Jessore district that a certain Munsif of that place has, by his conduct, created a panic in the minds of suitors. He detained two witnesses who had contradicted themselves in giving evidence in the witness box, threatened to take criminal proceedings against them, and let them off only when they had pulled themselves by their ears and noses. Since that occurrence no one likes to come to his Court as a witness. One of the men so treated threatened to make an affidavit against the Munsif before the District Judge; but the Munsif dissuaded him from his purpose by private influence.

HITAVADI,
Jan. 4th, 1901.

The Munsif gets angry if pleaders cite precedents. He refuses also to listen to any precedents, except those of the Calcutta High Court. He shows great unwillingness to take up defended cases.

The Editor cannot vouch for the truth of the above charges and asks Government to ascertain if they are true.

9. The *Manbhum* [Purulia] of the 8th January says that it was shown in a previous issue of this paper [See Report on Native Papers for the 6th October 1900, paragraph 5] that it would be more convenient for the people and economical for the Government, if civil justice for both the Singhbhum and Manbhum districts and for the Dhalbhum pargana, which, since the opening of

MANBHUM,
Jan. 8th, 1901.

Administration of civil justice in the Manbhum and Singhbhum districts.

the Howrah-Sini Branch of the Bengal-Nagpur Railway, has become a short journey from Purulia, were administered in Purulia. Many letters have been received from the inhabitants of the Dhalbhum pargana in support of our proposal. Government is requested to consider the proposal favourably and earn the gratitude of the people.

(d)—Education.

BIKASH,
Jan. 1st, 1901.

10. The Bikash [Barisal] of the 1st January has the following:—

Proposed abolition of the inspecting panditships in the Backergunge district.

We have learnt with alarm that the District Board of Backergunge has decided to abolish the posts of inspecting pandits and to send away those ill-paid and hardworking officers who have spent the best portion of their lives in serving the Board, penniless and helpless. We do not know the reasons why these men have incurred the displeasure of the Board. We hear that the Board's object is to replace them by more educated men. But almost all the Deputy Inspectors of Schools say that the inspection of pathsalas, is satisfactorily done by these inspecting pandits. Why then send them away? Will inspection work be better done when these inspecting pandits have been turned out? Will the university graduates and under graduates who may be appointed in the place of these inspecting pandits take the trouble of frequently walking over muddy roads and under heavy showers to inspect village pathsalas? Even if they do, what reason is there to think that they will do the inspection work better than the inspecting pandits? At present there are 20 inspecting pandits in the Backergunge district, of whom 2 or 3 are university men, and we have learnt from a trustworthy source that the half-educated men do the work more satisfactorily than these educated men. In every district of Bengal inspection of pathsalas by inspecting pandits is considered satisfactory. The matter, it is said, will be considered by the Education Sub-Committee of the District Board on the 9th January next; and it is hoped that the Vice-Chairman and the members of the sub-committee will earn the gratitude of the poor pandits by rejecting the proposal for their dismissal. Even if the change is considered an improvement, it will be unjust to dispense summarily with the services of the present holders of the posts. Government has ordered the posts of Civil Court amins to be abolished, but has ruled that the order will not affect the existing amins. If the Backergunge District Board is determined upon carrying its proposal, it should follow the Government's example.

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-
ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
Jan. 2nd, 1901.

11. The Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika [Calcutta] of the

The Calcutta Medical College fees.

2nd January says that the fees in the Calcutta Medical College will be enhanced from Rs. 5 to Rs. 12 a month from the beginning of the next session. But what do the authorities mean by this? Considering the state of health of the country and the number of people who die without receiving any medical aid, it is necessary that the number of doctors in the country should increase. But the rules and regulations and the examinations of the Medical College are becoming so strict that in a few years the number of native students in the College will considerably decrease.

SANJIVANI,
Jan. 3rd, 1901.

12. The Sanjivani [Calcutta] of the 3rd January has the following:—

The new scheme of vernacular education.

The controversy over the scheme of vernacular education which was proposed by Government in July 1899 has borne fruit. The mischief that was threatened by the proposed curtailment of Bengali literature in the curriculum has been averted, and the desire to teach boys bamboo-work has become less keen. The proposal to make a place for the Kindergarten system in the new scheme is certainly a very good one, but we cannot commend the cheese-paring policy of the Government, which, whilst anxious to train up boys on that excellent system, is not yet willing to find the money for the training up in it of the fifty thousand or more gurus and pandits employed in the vernacular schools. The course proposed to be pursued is to teach the Kindergarten method to all inspecting officers, and then communicate it through their agency to the gurus and pandits. This may produce good results in the future, but will do little good now.

Government admits that the scheme has many imperfections. And its chief defect is that it requires teachers who do not know how to use their own eyes and ears to teach their pupils how to use those organs.

13. The *Kasipur Nivasi* [Barisal] of the 2nd January says that till lately it was the practice of the Backergunge District Board to select examiners for the Lower Primary Examination from among the Head Masters and Head Pandits of vernacular schools. But now the man who is once appointed an examiner cannot hope to be again appointed within five years. The manner in which examiners were selected this year was highly objectionable. In many instances, teachers of Upper Primary schools who have passed only the Upper Primary Examination, were appointed. In the Middle English schools there are many under-graduates whose claims to the examinerships ought to have been first considered. The post of an examiner is an honourable one, and only an educated man ought to be appointed to it.

KASIPUR NIVASI,
Jan. 2nd 1901.

14. A correspondent of the *Sansodhini* [Chittagong] of the 4th January says that the adverse remarks made by the Sub-Inspector of Patia after an inspection of the Paraikora Middle English School in the Chittagong district are probably due to some ill-feeling which he entertains against the Head Master of the institution. The Sub-Inspector recorded that the "results of the scholarship examinations were far from satisfactory." But as a matter of fact, the school has been remarkably successful since its elevation to the Middle English standard in 1897. At the last examination four boys were sent up for the Middle English scholarships and one for the Middle Vernacular and all of them were successful, all the former passing in the first division and the latter in the second division. Since 1897, eleven boys have been sent up for the Middle English Examination and ten of them have passed, six being placed in the first division.

SANSODHINI,
Jan. 4th, 1901.

As it is not desirable that there should exist any ill-feeling between an inspecting officer and the Head Master of a school the educational authorities ought to see that the cause of ill-feeling, if any, in the present case is removed.

15. A correspondent of the *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 10th January says that the Commissioner of the Rajshahi Division having remarked that the expenditure of the Pabna District Board was very large, the members of the Board at once passed a resolution abolishing the posts of inspecting pandits and reducing the grants made to Middle Vernacular schools by Rs. 10 each. The Board ought to have strongly protested against the remark of the Commissioner about its educational expenditure. Does not the Board know that Pabna being the most advanced district in the division, its educational expenditure should, as a matter of necessity, be larger than that of the backward districts?

BASUMATI,
Jan. 10th, 1901.

(e)—*Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.*

16. The *Bankura Darpan* [Bankura] of the 1st January says that formerly there was a municipality at Kotalpur, in the Bankura district, but it was abolished some seven or eight years ago. The re-establishment of a municipality in the place has become urgently necessary.

BANKURA DARPAN,
Jan. 1st, 1901.

The broken bridge at the junction of the Kotalpur and Burdwan roads urgently needs repairs. The extension of Act V to Kotalpur has become necessary, as the villagers are much given to fouling the water of tanks by washing soiled and dirty clothes in them.

(g)—*Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation.*

17. The *Medini Bandhav* [Midnapore] of the 2nd January complains that the Daspur-Ajuria road under the Ghatal Local Board, Midnapore district, is in a deplorable condition owing to want of supervision by the road inspectors.

MEDINI BANDHAV,
Jan. 2nd. 1901.

The bridge at village Ananda over the road from Contai which meets the Puri road at Belda was broken by the flood in September last and has not

yet been repaired. The District Board is requested to repair it as soon as possible.

HITAVADI,
Jan. 4th, 1901.

18. Babu Nagendra Nath Kar, B.A., writing in the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 4th January from post-office Ganguapur in the Jessore district, complains that the ticket-seller

A railway complaint.
at the Sealdah station refused to sell him a third-class ticket direct for the Ganguapur station on the Bangaon-Ranaghat branch of the Bengal Central Railway and compelled him to purchase a ticket only up to Bangaon, thereby inflicting on him a loss of five annas and nine pies for the entire journey from Sealdah to Ganguapur. The numbers of the two tickets which the correspondent purchased were 2,140 and 2,465, respectively. The conduct of the ticket-seller was also very insolent and rude. An enquiry into the matter is solicited.

BANGABANDHU,
Jan. 5th, 1901.

19. The *Bangabandhu* [Chandernagore] of the 5th January complains that the space in front of the third-class ticket window in the Sealdah station being very narrow

Railway complaints.
passengers feel great inconvenience in purchasing tickets. To save themselves the trouble of pushing through the crowd, many passengers pay one or two pice to the constable on duty near the ticket window and approach it by the passage for egress. So the constables instead of allowing passengers to approach the ticket window one by one help to make matters worse with a view to their own gain. There should be separate ticket windows for the local and the through train passengers respectively.

There are no arrangements for the supply of drinking water to Hindu passengers from Sealdah to Barrackpore. It is said that there is a water supplier at Barrackpore, but as the man has to serve as a cook for the station staff, his services as water-supplier are not always available by the passengers.

(h)—General.

BANKURA DARPAN,
Jan. 1st, 1901

20. The *Bankura Darpan* [Bankura] of the 1st January complains that the Post-Master of the Kotalpur Post Office, in the Bankura district, is imperfectly acquainted with

A postal complaint.
the English alphabet and invariably makes mistakes in transliterating English addresses on the covers into Bengali. This leads to mistakes in delivery and a letter, meant for one man, however private its contents, is often opened by another. One more peon is also wanted, as the peon of beat No. 5 is overworked. The number of villages within this beat is very large and all of them have to be visited every day by one peon. That is why no peon can stick to the beat for more than two or three months. Is it a fact that the Postal Inspector of Bankura has given orders for no deliveries or clearances being made on Sundays?

The people of Kotalpur will be much benefited by the extension of the telegraph line from Vishnupur to that place.

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-
ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
Jan. 2nd, 1901.

21. Referring to the Lepage case in Shillong the *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 2nd January writes as follows:—

The case of the Sub-Postmaster
of Shillong.

The judgment in the above case was delivered on the 2nd March 1900, and on the 12th September last a motion was made to the High Court against the Deputy Commissioner's decision. The High Court rejected the motion on the ground that it was made very late. Whatever delay the Chief Commissioner of Assam might have made in sending the case to the Deputy Legal Remembrancer, it is certain that the case was sent to that officer before the expiry of the time allotted for making a motion. It is probably the fault of the Deputy Legal Remembrancer that the motion was not made in time. We request the Government to make an enquiry into the matter.

The keen sense of justice of a European Magistrate has enabled Mr. Lepage and his companion to escape scot-free after committing an unlawful act by obstructing a public servant in the execution of his duty and beating an innocent man. But it must be remembered that Mr. Lepage, the accused, was a European, and Babu Nitya Ranjan Sen, the assaulted Sub-Postmaster, was a native. It must be, therefore, presumed that when this European beat this

native, the party at fault was the native. If the Sub-Postmaster had been a European, Mr. Lepage would not have ventured to violate the law by assaulting him as he assaulted Nitya Babu. Does not this too prove that the fault was Nitya Babu's? Being a *kala admi* it was certainly his fault even to oppose Mr. Lepage in his unlawful act. Mr. Lepage has, therefore, been let off scot-free and Nitya Babu has been censured. He has been transferred from Shillong to Kohima in the Naga Hills. It takes 17 days to reach Kohima from Solaghat and a bullock cart going to that station costs Rs. 100 to 120. Possibly Nitya Babu has been punished in this way because he made public the fact of his having been assaulted by a European. The order for his transfer was given in March last, that is, immediately after the acquittal of Mr. Lepage. As most of the members of his family were ill at the time he had no alternative but to take leave and he has been on leave since that time. He is in a fix as to what to do. If he refuses to go to Kohima he will be dismissed and his family will starve. On the other hand he has not the means to pay the expenses of his journey to his new station. He has submitted a petition to the Director-General of the Post-Office stating all the facts, and we hope that the Director-General will not fail to take pity on this unfortunate man.

22. The *Kasipur Nivasi* [Barisal] of the 2nd January says that the Barisal mail steamer lands the mails for Pirojpur at Kaukhali at 10 A. M. and another steamer takes

KASIPUR NIVASI,
Jan. 2nd, 1901.

A postal complaint.

the Pirojpur mail from Kaukhali the next day and lands it at Pirojpur on the third day. This causes much inconvenience to the public as letters from Barisal reach Pirojpur, which is only 50 miles from Barisal, on the third day. The Barisal steamer goes to Khulna via Hularhat, which is only 4 miles from Pirojpur, and the mails for Pirojpur can be sent to their destination in boats. The Postmaster-General is requested to enquire into the matter and remove this grievance of the public.

23. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 3rd January, says that the Assam public is grateful to Mr. Cotton, Chief Commissioner of Assam, for abolishing the *begar* system in Cachar

SANJIVANI,
Jan. 3rd, 1901.

Abolition of *begar* in Assam.

under which Government officers used to compel Mirasdars and farmers to supply coolies to carry their luggages.

24. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 4th January has the following:—

HITAVADI,
Jan. 4th, 1901.

Captain Gurdon, Deputy Commissioner of Gauhati, Assam.

Captain Gurdon, Deputy Commissioner of Gauhati in Assam, is a *zubberdust* officer, and most people of Gauhati consider themselves oppressed by him. He has a strong dislike for educated Bengalis, and does his best, directly and indirectly, to prevent their admission into the public service of Assam. Strange to say, he has Mr. Cotton's support in this. Soon after becoming Chief Commissioner, Mr. Cotton introduced the competitive examination system for recruiting men for the public services. But he has lately abolished that system and is now appointing Eurasians and half-educated Assamese to vacant posts under the nomination system. This is something never expected from a man like Mr. Cotton.

Though every officer in Assam is frequently transferred from one place to another, Captain Gurdon has been an exception to this rule, and has remained in Gauhati for three long years. Mr. Cotton seems to have got no opportunity of transferring him, although the people of Gauhati are quite disgusted with the Deputy Commissioner's treatment of them.

Babu Kesab Chandra Barua is the Vice-Chairman of the Gauhati Municipality and is a spirited man. He was doing his best to curtail municipal expenditure, and found out in the course of his enquiries that ten tins of kerosine oil belonging to the municipality had been consumed in the European club and that a quantity had also been consumed in Captain Gurdon's own house. Kesab Babu felt no hesitation in realising the price from the parties concerned. He also did his best to realise the price of the oil which he found debited in the account books against Mr. Bell, the late Vice-Chairman; and also took steps to realise an arrear of municipal taxes amounting to Rs. 85 due from Mr. R. C. Hamilton, Assistant Commissioner, who had left the station without paying it. The amount has not, however, been yet realised. Kesab Babu had also a work done for only six hundred rupees, for which the Overseer had submitted an estimate amounting to fourteen hundred rupees. For these

various reasons Kesab Babu became an eye-sore to Captain Gurdon, and the latter resolved to snub him. He commenced slighting Kesab Babu in various petty matters. On the occasion of Lord Curzon's visit to Gauhati Kesab Babu was not invited and was given no opportunity of meeting the Viceroy. At last, matters were pushed so far that when Kesab Babu went on a pilgrimage, leaving at home only a little boy and female members of his family, the police entered into his house to make a search, and held possession of the house for an entire day. Three months have elapsed since this occurrence, but no criminal charge has yet been forthcoming against Kesab Babu. He has, therefore, submitted a memorial to the Chief Commissioner, containing a startling statement of facts. We hesitate to believe that oppression like that described in the memorial could be committed under British rule upon a man of Kesab Babu's position. Yet we must take the complaints to be true, so long as the Chief Commissioner does not make an investigation in the matter.

HITAVADI,
Jan 4th, 1901.

25. The same paper says that the fury of plague is rapidly increasing in Chapra, Gaya, Patna, Bankipore and Monghyr. In the first three towns the Magistrates concerned are doing their best to check the disease by preventive measures, in the enforcement of which due regard is being shown for the manners, customs and sense of honour of the people. Many orphans are also being saved through the agency of the District Officers. Mr. Hare, Commissioner of the Patna Division, is personally up and doing. But the same cannot be said either of Mr. Walsh, Magistrate of Monghyr, or of Mr. Williams, Commissioner of the Bhagalpur Division. In Monghyr fifty deaths from plague are taking place every day. The people are in despair and are fleeing from the town. But all this while Mr. Walsh has been touring in the mufassal going about sporting from hill to hill and from jungle to jungle. Mr. Williams, too, is away from head-quarters. We do not believe that their presence at head-quarters would have done much good; still it would be of some use as a means of inspiring confidence in the public mind, panic-stricken as it is, and of ensuring the making of better arrangements for the poor and the helpless.

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,
Jan. 4th, 1901.

26. The *Mihir-o-Sudhakar*, [Calcutta] of the 4th January says that the Musalman community is grateful to Government for allowing the Musalmans of Chota Nagpur, Dacca, Rajshahi and Orissa Divisions to proceed to their Hedjaz pilgrimage.

SARASWAT PATRA,
Jan. 5th, 1901.

27. The *Saraswat Patra* [Dacca] of the 5th January says that the confirmation of Mr. Savage in the Commissionership of the Dacca Division is not a promotion in the usual official course, but has come to him as a reward for his exceptional ability and has filled the people under his charge with great joy. Mr. Savage has earned praise in every post he has up to this time held. His memory is still worshipped at Barisal, where he served as Magistrate, and Dacca will not easily forget the lasting benefits he is conferring on her in silence and without noise. He is rigorous where duty has to be done, but socially and in purely human relations he is all kindness and mercy. The Dacca people wish him every success in life and hope to see him one day seated on the *musnud* of Bengal.

PRATIVASI,
Jan. 7th, 1901.

28. The *Prativasi* [Calcutta] of the 7th January has the following :—
Lord Curzon proposed to appoint five "British Anglo-Indians" as extra Assistant Commissioners in Assam by abolishing five posts which are held by Civilians. The Chief Commissioner of Assam opposed the proposal on the ground that the administrative machinery of the province would be impaired by such a change. But the Viceroy overruled Mr. Cotton's objection and decided in favour of his original proposal, and one Mr. Thomson, son of a Small Cause Court Judge in Assam, has been appointed Extra Assistant Commissioner of Dhubri. Mr. Thomson was a ranger in the Forest Department and has no experience whatever of Assam. It is impossible that he should have any knowledge of the law. The responsibility of an extra Assistant Commissioner is very great, seeing that he has to perform the functions of both a Munsif and a Magistrate. It, therefore, appears to us very odd to appoint an

Appointment of British Anglo-Indian Extra Assistant Commissioners in Assam.

inexperienced forest officer to such a post. We hear that another "British Anglo-Indian" has been appointed an extra Assistant Commissioner. We put the following questions to Lord Curzon:—

- (1) What does he mean by "British Anglo-Indian"?
- (2) Did he really make such a proposal?
- (3) Was Mr. Cotton's objection to the proposal overruled?
- (4) Have Mr. Thomson and another of the same nationality been really appointed Extra Assistant Commissioners? If so, what is the reason of their appointment?

So long as these questions remain unanswered, so long the public will be unable to reconcile the rumour regarding Lord Curzon's partiality for Eurasians with his Bangalore speech.

29. The *Prabhat* [Calcutta] of the 9th January speaks of Captain

An official persecution in Assam.

Gurdon, Deputy Commissioner of Gauhati in Assam, in the same strain as the *Hitavadi*, and

describes his alleged persecution of Babu Kesab Chandra Barua, Vice-Chairman of the Gauhati Municipality, exactly in the way that paper has done (see paragraph 24). The writer then goes on as follows:—

We are glad to hear that Kesab Babu has submitted a memorial to the Chief Commissioner describing the unwarranted persecutions that were committed upon him. Considering Mr. Cotton's sense of justice, we are confident that he will get redress for his wrongs. The account of the persecution, committed as it was upon a man of Kesab Babu's position, has greatly pained us, and we hope Mr. Cotton will make a minute enquiry into the case, and if there is a wire-puller behind the screen, inflict adequate punishment upon him.

30. The same paper considers it fortunate that the people of India have at last been undeceived as to the character of the

The Homœopathic M.D. degree-holders.

M.D. degrees which many homœopathic practitioners, who never took the trouble of regular

study, use after their names. Government will do a great good to the country by publishing the names and addresses of all such practitioners, and by prohibiting them from using the degree, as it does incalculable mischief by misleading people.

31. The *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 10th January has the following:—

Mr. Nolan's circular.

Mr. Nolan is an old Civilian of many years' standing who had grown grey in the post of

Divisional Commissioner before he came to the Board of Revenue. He is a well-wisher of Bengalis and is always careful to see that nothing is done which may cause unrest and dissatisfaction in the country. Having been in charge of the administration of several districts for a long time past he has acquired considerable knowledge of the manner in which boy-civilians treat the natives of the province. He has in his leisure hours cordially mixed with the people and from this acquaintance knows how "docile" they are and how, with a little kindness and consideration, one can win their confidence and respect.

Mr. Nolan is aware that there is no real sympathy between the District Officers and the people committed to their charge. The parties do not understand, nor do they care to understand each other. Mr. Nolan has therefore issued a circular advising District Officers to cultivate friendly relations with the natives not only in their official but also in their private capacity. The advice he has given is sound and salutary and is the outcome of his long experience. It is to be hoped that District Officers will not disobey the instructions which have been given them by this old Civilian. If they act up to these instructions, both the rulers and the ruled will gain. It is in the spirit of the counsel offered by Mr. Nolan that Sir John Woodburn always acts. Those who disregard such counsel may be trusted servants of the Indian Government, but they are without doubt not its friends and well-wishers.

III.—LEGISLATION.

32. Referring to the proposed amendment of the Indian Forest Act the

The Indian Forest Act Amendment Bill.

Bangavasi [Calcutta] of the 5th January writes as follows:—

All large forests in India are in the possession and custody of the Government. Government has a right not only over all

PRABHAT,
Jan. 9th, 1901.

PRABHAT.

BASUMATI,
Jan. 10th, 1901.

BANGAVASI,
Jan. 5th, 1901.

wood and timber, but over the very grass and leaves growing in such forests. Fires sometimes break out in these, and it is the belief of the authorities that these fires are caused by wicked men by way of being revenged upon Government for not allowing people to take away wood, grass, &c., at their will. These fires inflict much loss on the Government, and to prevent their occurrence the Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab proposed to inflict fines on the whole village community in whose neighbourhood a forest fire occurred. The Viceroy and his Ministers have not, however, been able to accept a proposal for such wholesale punishment. But the amendment they have proposed will, in reality, have an equally bad effect, and will be a pecuniary punishment of an indirect sort. Many poor people earn their livelihood by picking up sticks, leaves, &c., in Government forests and by selling them. Many people also find fodder for their cattle in these forests. The proposed amendment provides that "whenever fire is caused wilfully or by gross negligence in a protected forest, the Local Government may direct that in such forest or any portion thereof the exercise of all rights of pasture or to forest produce shall be suspended." This means that for the fault of a few, an entire village community must suffer. It is a punishment which will be tantamount to, and substantially harder than, that proposed by the Punjab Government.

V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

HITAVADI,
Jan. 4th, 1901.

33. A correspondent of the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 4th January draws attention to the distress prevailing in the villages Narayantala, Rukhia, Gopalpur and Bade Gahara in the 24-Parganas district. The heavy rainfall of September last destroyed the houses of the villagers and all their crops. They have not yet been able to reconstruct their houses and they do not possess even seed grains for future sowing. Some are getting food every third or fourth day. As all their goods and chattels were sold in the distress of the past two years, they have nothing left by the sale of which they could procure food or seed grains. The zamindars should grant total remissions of rent in the present year.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-
ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
Jan. 2nd, 1901.

34. In its review of the departed century the *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 2nd January writes as follows:—

We have thought much but failed to see that the Indians have made any real progress during the nineteenth century. It is true India has got during that century railways, telegraph lines and a large postal system, the usual accompaniments of English rule. But they are not improvements from within. Other countries, however, have made vast strides towards advancement during the nineteenth century. Europe has derived much profit from India, having made large acquisitions from India's store-house in the fields of religion and commerce and in many other directions.

SANJIVANI,
Jan. 3rd, 1901.

35. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 3rd January is glad that Babu Kali Nath Mitra has been made a C.I.E. Babu Kali Nath was a Municipal Commissioner of Calcutta in which capacity he did splendid service to the Municipality and was also for sometime a member of the Bengal Council. But why is the Government unwilling to confer honours on Babu Narendra Nath Sen, Surendra Nath Banerjee, Radharaman Pal, Nalin Bihari Sarkar and Bhupendra Nath Basu who, too, rendered as much service to the Calcutta Municipality as Babu Kali Nath.

HITAVADI,
Jan. 4th, 1901.

36. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 4th January says that from the case of the *mahanta* of Burha Nath in Bhagalpur two things are clear; (1) that there are provisions in the existing law for deposing a wicked *mahanta*, provisions which can be put in operation by the people themselves and in the enforcement whereof Government is bound to help the Hindu community, and (2) that the administration of temple property by a committee does not necessarily lead to its abuse or waste or create any inconvenience in the performance of the worship &c. of the deity or any dissatisfaction among religious men.

But to put the law in operation, that is to say, to carry out the existing provisions of the Civil Procedure Code on the subject, requires money. No Hindu is now willing to spend money or undertake personal trouble for a law-suit with a view to securing the deposition of a wicked *mahanta*. The consequence is that a wicked *mahanta* is seldom deposed now-a-days. In his Tanjore speech Lord Curzon said that Government could not take upon itself the duty of regulating Hindu temple property. This is a correct view of the matter. But we never prayed for such action on the part of the Government. What we, Hindus, want is the restoration of our old powers in regard to the management of temple property. During the rule of the Moghul Emperors, the Hindu community possessed the power of deposing *mahantas*. Leaders of the Hindu society could on their own authority depose bad *mahantas* without being required even to bring the matter to the notice of the Nawabs or Emperors. They had the power of forcibly expelling from his *guddee* any licentious *mahanta*. But all that power is gone. Use of force against a *mahanta* would now be an offence under the Criminal law. Any other steps taken for the same purpose would also create liability under both the Civil and the Criminal Procedure Code. People are thus prevented from taking any steps on their own authority to secure the deposition of a bad *mahanta*. Government, too, does nothing for fear of being charged with interference with the Hindu religion. And the result is that a bad *mahanta* revels in a career of debauchery to the infinite disgust of Hindus.

What Lord Curzon said on this subject at Tanjore would have been right if the Hindu community being possessed of the power to check such a *mahanta*, had failed to exercise that power and called upon the Government to interfere. But when the Government has deprived the people of all their social powers and rights, and when a man may be punished in a Law Court for telling even the truth, who but the Government should protect the right of the Hindu community? Lord Curzon should have seen this before expressing himself as he did.

Government should be careful in this connection not to be misled by those corrupt pseudo-religionists who always appear as the supporters of wicked *mahantas*. What we want of the Government is neither that it should increase the power of the police in order that it may keep such *mahantas* in check, nor that it should take all temple property into its own hand, but that it should empower the people to supervise the management and administration of such property. Committees, votes and new rights are wanted solely for this purpose and for no other. The deposition of the *mahanta* of Burha Nath has created no trouble or inconvenience. The management of the temple affairs has on the other hand become more satisfactory in the hands of the Managing Committee. Whatever disregard individual members of such a committee may entertain for orthodox Hindu manners and customs, it is certain that none of them will ever turn the gold offered by devotees to a god into ornaments for his paramour or spend god's money in buying luxuries for himself.

37. The *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 5th January has the following:—

The nineteenth century.

The greatness of the Christian nations dates from the beginning of the nineteenth century and at the end of that century they have become masters of the whole world. Within these hundred years India has undergone so many changes that one will observe a striking difference if one compares a map of India prepared in the first year of the nineteenth century with one prepared in this, the first year of the twentieth. India whose wealth and fertility once attracted the notice of the European nations is now so poor that her people are dying of starvation. The Hindus of India were famous for their bravery, courage and truthfulness. Six centuries of Musalman rule could not bring about any change in the character of the Hindus. But alas, gone are those glorious days. Neither the Hindu nor the Musalman is now a powerful nation in India, but both are subject to a third nation, the English. The Musalmans who were once a ruling race in India are now wholly dependent on the favours of the British Government. The British at first came to India for commercial purposes. Never did they think that they would one day come to be the rulers of India. God so favoured Moses who was wandering about the desert in search of fire that He at once made him a prophet. Such

BHARAT MITRA,
Jan. 5th, 1901.

is the case with the English. They came to India in search of livelihood, but God so favoured them that He made them rulers of India. If the prosperity of the Christian nations goes on increasing in this way during the present century, the prophecy of Muhammad will prove true. It is said in the Islamic theology that on the day of the destruction of the universe the Christian nations not satisfied with the conquest of this world, will proceed to conquer even heaven.

BHARAT MITRA,
Jan. 5th, 1900.

38. The same paper is glad that the circular issued by Mr. Nolan of the Board of Revenue shows that every effort is being made by the Government to bring about a feeling of friendship between the European officials and the Indian people. The credit of this laudable endeavour must belong to His Excellency Lord Curzon. It is hoped he will do something to better the condition of India.

DACCA GAZETTE,
Jan. 7th, 1901.

39. The following appears in the English columns of the *Dacca Gazette* [Dacca] of the 7th January:—

The Indian National Congress.

"It is only fit that in the twilight before the dawn of a new era, our National Congress should make a new departure, full of promise and hope. The Congress held at Lahore at the Sixteenth Anniversary Meeting may be said to have passed over its infancy and entered upon adolescence or fruitful youth; and the recent expansion of its aim and scope is therefore very opportune and interesting to all parties concerned. And Mr. Chandravarkar—Judge-elect of the Bombay High Court—was the worthy President of the Congress, whose moderation and sound sense have evoked praise from unexpected quarters, such as the *Pioneer* of Allahabad, though the excellence of his arguments convicting the Government of *drift* and *patch work* out of its own mouth, i.e., out of the utterances of officials has been very irritating to the *Pi* and his *confreres* as noticed by the *Indian Mirror* of Calcutta.

"After describing, not in glowing but in telling words taken mostly from public records of an unexceptionable character, that the indebtedness and poverty of the ryot in Bombay, Central Provinces and in other parts of this great country are appalling, and the real cause of widespread misery in connection with famine due to want of rainfall or drought, the President insists on a systematic and steady policy of amelioration under the auspices of a central Department of Agriculture and Industries for India. A Director of Agriculture is a *sine qua non* and has already been promised by the Secretary of State for India, but we also need industrial development. The first Famine Commission declared that "the multiplication of industries was the only simple remedy for famine." The President regrets that very little has been done since that suggestion made some twenty years ago. On the contrary, industries have been reduced and landless day-labourers increased, the result being the swelling of relief works, the moment they are opened in a famine area. The President then goes on to explain how technical education could be carried on, and new industries opened or old ones revived. "Protection," we are afraid, is out of the question, though we do not see why Protection would mean Civil War in India, according to Lord Salisbury who once said "my belief is that Protection means nothing else but Civil War." Failing protection, the President pleads for justice, with Mr. Bright. If we must have free trade in its full swing, let us have the open-door policy for the whole empire, and let not Indian subjects going to Natal or Cape Colony be treated as if India had not part or lot in the empire, and so forth.

"In short, it is in the development of Agriculture and Industry that our future welfare lies, and while laying stress upon the duties of Government towards the distressed ryot of India, our own duty, in this direction, should not be overlooked; we should do all in our power both by precept and example, to accomplish the needful in this hour of extreme need of our poor mother country—the Indian Empire."

PRATIVASI,
Jan. 7th, 1901.

40. The *Prativasi* [Calcutta] of the 7th January has the following:—

Mr. Cotton's kindness to natives.

Mr. Cotton, the Chief Commissioner of Assam, is now living on board his steamer which is moored at Chandpal Ghat. The other day he granted an interview to his native friends. When he was seated with a few Bengali

gentlemen on the upper deck and conversing with them, he was informed that his old chess-player had come to see him. Addressing his friends Mr. Cotton said "Wait a little, I am coming presently. My friend is an old man and will find it hard to come upstairs. So let me go down and see him." So saying he went down and approached his old friend. A curious spectacle was now witnessed. The old "native" ran up to him and fastened himself to his neck while he put his hand round that of the native. How wonderful, the white thus embracing the black! What audacity on Mr. Cotton's part? Granted, the fellow is a good chess-player, but, then, he is a native. What if half-a-dozen plague or cholera microbes had emanated from his body and entered into Mr. Cotton's? What if half-a-dozen bugs had found admission into his collar and effected a lodgment there? The old Bengali took out a photo from his pocket and said "I have brought my photo for you." Mr. Cotton cordially accepted the present and told him in Bengali "I shall send mine to you."

Even the story of a tiger's kindness to a goat would not have caused us so much surprise. The Anglo-Indian community shows so much niggardliness in treating natives with courtesy that the latter can only expect fisticuffs, blows, and kicks at its hands. Those large-hearted Englishmen, therefore, who like Sir John Woodburn and Mr. Cotton show such sympathy and noble-mindedness in these bad times and thereby bind us to them by ties of gratitude, are not only friends of India, but sincere well-wishers of the British Empire and the greatest benefactors of England. That God may grant them long life and perpetual happiness is the sincere wish of our heart.

41. The *Bosumati* [Calcutta] of the 10th January has the following:—

BASUMATI,
Jan. 10th, 1901.

The Blackhole memorial.

The marble statue of Sir Ashley Eden, which was paid for and placed by the public at the north-west corner of Dalhousie Square, is no longer there. In its place a memorial column now rears its head. As no inscription has as yet been put on the column, wayfarers are unable to make out why or to do honour to whom the statue has been pulled down and room has been made for the new structure.

The column erected by Holwell himself at his own expense to perpetuate the memory of the Blackhole Massacre, as described by him, was destroyed at the time when the Custom House building was constructed. It is now nearly a century since that event took place. During these hundred years the Blackhole Massacre was a subject that was taught only in schools, and in Calcutta there was no memorial of the occurrence. No one could discover what had become of even the inscription on Holwell's memorial. It was in an evil moment that Akshaya Kumar took up his pen to vindicate the memory of Seraj-ud-dowlah. Since the publication of Akshaya Kumar's book, public interest in the question of the massacre and its memorial has revived in the Anglo-Indian community. That is why a memorial is being erected after so long a time.

In the old English fort in Calcutta there was a prison called the Blackhole. This prison, which was dark and unventilated, had been erected by the Company's officers for the punishment and correction of drunken sailors and soldiers and such defaulting debtors as had taken advances from the Company. The cell was placed in a room on the ground floor at the south-east corner of the fort. There has been a good deal of discussion regarding the dimensions of this cell in which Seraj-ud-dowlah confined 246 English prisoners on a summer night and inflicted infinite torments on them. Their sufferings proved too much for the unfortunate men, most of whom grew restless and succumbed under the suffering. The bodies of only twenty-three men, on the point of death, were brought out the next morning. The account of this massacre, which was first published in Holwell's book, has subsequently with various modifications, thanks to Macaulay's vigorous pen, found general acceptance, and is considered as furnishing indisputable proof of Seraj-ud-dowlah's cruel nature. Now, what Akshaya Kumar has shown is (1) that there was a prison called the Blackhole which was erected by the English; and (2) that some English prisoners might not improbably have been confined in it, but (3) that the Blackhole Massacre as described by Holwell cannot be accepted as a true occurrence. These are not baseless and imaginary statements made by a Bengali historian. In the works of contemporary Musalman and French historians, there is no mention of the massacre. A French scholar writing

under the nom-de-plume of Haji Mustapha says in his commentary on the *Sayer-ul-mutaksharin*, a history of Bengal, that not even the inhabitants of Calcutta knew anything about the Blackhole massacre. There is no mention of the massacre in any treaty made by Clive with Seraj-ud-dowlah or Mir Jaffir or in the threatening letter which was sent by Clive to Seraj immediately before the battle of Plassey inviting him to a battle. Nor is there any mention of the occurrence in the news sent by Clive to England after the battle. A small cell like that in which the 246 prisoners are stated to have been confined cannot possibly hold so many men. There were not at that time 246 Englishmen in the English fort in Calcutta, for the great majority had, following Drake's example, fled by boat, while of those that were in the fort a good many had been killed in the fighting of the three preceding days. Besides his account of the Blackhole Massacre, Holwell wrote also an account of the Dacca massacre. Holwell reported to England that Mir Jaffir had cruelly murdered Ghaseti Begum and others at Dacca. When, therefore, after Mir Jaffir's death, Ghaseti Begum and others turned up in *propria persona* and received their pensions from the Company, the members of the Council in Calcutta saw that there was no truth in Holwell's account of the Dacca massacre, and that it was fictitious from beginning to end. Why is a memorial being erected to perpetuate the memory of the Blackhole massacre after the same Holwell's account of the massacre has been proved to the letter to have been imaginary and fictitious?

It is not politic to keep the past history of the establishment of an empire always fresh in the public mind. Thanks to the blessings of education and good government which they now enjoy, the people of this country have completely forgotten those old matters. But if an attempt is now made to recal them to mind, the public will naturally discuss the truth or falsity of the alleged occurrence. Unless and until the statements made in the work "Seraj-ud-dowlah," showing the fictitious character of the Blackhole story, are contradicted and disproved, the erection of this memorial column will, in our humble opinion, prove perfectly infructuous. This brick built memorial will become a memorial of the book "Seraj-ud-dowlah." Future historians will be compelled for the sake of truth, to write "Holwell had put up at his own expense a memorial column that was demolished by the Company which erected the Custom House building on the site; there was not after this any memorial in Calcutta of the event for nearly a hundred years, and it was only after the publication of a book named "Seraj-ud-dowlah" establishing the baselessness of the Blackhole story that a new memorial column suddenly made its appearance."

It was some time ago observed by the *Englishman* newspaper that if any memorial were to be erected, there should be a fresh investigation, and only the truth that such an investigation might reveal should be recorded. A repetition of the inscription which was placed by Holwell on his memorial will very likely prove a source of embarrassment, for modern research has disclosed the fact that Holwell did not always describe the true state of things.

The *Englishman* is now singing in a tune different from that in which it sang when "Seraj-ud-dowlah" was reviewed in its columns. How is it that, while among Bengali historians Bihari Lal Sarkar and Akshaya Kumar Maitra have adduced evidence to show that the Blackhole massacre is a myth, our Viceroy has discovered even the exact spot where the massacre is said to have taken place and raised on it a Holwell memorial column? It may be, our historians have made an error, but no one has up to this time been able to prove or has even attempted to prove that they are wrong. Let such an attempt be first made. Let all evidence, favourable or adverse that may be available, be collected and let everybody, historian or not, have his say. And if, after all this, the Blackhole massacre is established, why should it be indicated by a column so low and small. We shall then see that the memorial column that is erected cleaves the sky. As it is, the memorial will only give rise to comments.

42. The same paper says that if honours had been conferred on none but the deserving, the name of Rai Chuni Lal Bose, Bahadur, would have found a place in the New Year's day honours list. Rai Chunilal is labouring hard in the field of chemistry.

Recently he has discovered a poison in the sticky matter in the *Karabi* or sweet-scented oleander (*Nerium odorum*), named it *Karabin*, and got a gold medal for the discovery. Everybody who has attempted original research in chemistry in this country knows what difficulties have to be overcome in the work. Had Chuni Babu made his discovery in Europe, the whole of that continent would have rung with his praise, and he would have been loaded with titles of honour. But he has taken his birth and he carries on his work in Bengal. So for him the performance of his life's hard work must be its own reward. But if men like him and Dr. Jagadis Chandra Bose were made C. I. E's, the value and dignity of that title would increase.

URIYA PAPERS.

43. The *Uriya and Navasamvad* [Balasore] of the 26th December regrets to notice that some cooly-sirdars in Balasore attempted to send away some men and women to distant places under false pretences, much against their will, and were detected at a very late stage of the proceedings.

URIYA AND
NAVASAMVAD,
Dec. 26th, 1900.

44. The same paper gives a short account of Lord Curzon's visit to Puri and Bhuvaneswar, and states that, as a result of this visit, the platform of the Puri Railway station, which was very low, has been raised, and the municipal bridge near the Railway station, which was very narrow, has been widened. These are sure to add to the public comfort.

URIYA AND
NAVASAMVAD.

45. The *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 29th December regrets to find that though the canals in other parts of India are more or less paying, those in Orissa are a dead loss to Government. The reason does not lie in the permanent nature of the land settlement in that province, as has been suggested by some, for a temporary land settlement obtains there, but in something else.

UTKALDIPIKA
Dec. 29th, 1900.

46. The same paper fully agrees with the Viceroy that the native chieftains and princes should not, as the result of their English education, transform themselves into Europeans, but stick to their ancient customs and usages, but remarks that the Government is mainly to blame for this, for European tutors and managers are forced upon the Indian Princes and their estates in preference to the native, and as an outcome of this, anglicised manners and habits prevail. The writer hopes that the Viceroy will take some practical steps to eradicate the alleged evil.

UTKALDIPIKA.

47. Referring to its paragraph regarding scarcity in Angul, published in its columns on the 21st July last [Report on Native Papers for 11th August, paragraph 61] the same paper regrets to point out that the Deputy Commissioner of Angul, instead of declaring publicly whether the statement was true or not, has been trying to find out the names of the correspondents who supplied news to the paper, and has to that effect been troubling some of his subordinates, who have been unreasonably suspected, and who have therefore applied to the paper for protection. The writer, in drawing the attention of the Garjat Superintendent to the same, observes that the statement was probably true, as proved by the relief arrangements made by Government after the publication of the paragraph in question, and that the action of the Deputy Commissioner is inexplicable, unless it be with an intention to punish those who had public good in their heart and to deter people in future from publishing matters affecting the weal or woe of an important Garjat district like Angul.

UTKALDIPIKA.

48. In publishing the letter of one of its correspondents, the same paper points out that steps should be taken to make vaccination popular among the people, as many have been found to bribe vaccinators with a view to have recourse to inoculation. This bias in favour of the old system has been created by a certain number of unsuccessful vaccinations, where vaccinated children developed symptoms of small-pox. The writer hopes that the officers in charge of the Vaccination Department will see not only to the number of vaccinations made, but to their successful issue.

UTKALDIPIKA.

UTKALDIPIKA.
Dec. 29th, 1900.

49. The Bentkar correspondent of the same paper urges upon the District Board of Cuttack the necessity of repairing the Balipukhuri tank in Bentkar, a village situated at a distance of a few miles from the Cuttack town, as on the approach of the summer season a large number of men and women suffer from the terrible effects of a water-famine.

ASSAM PAPERS.

SILCHAR,
Dec. 30th, 1900.

50. The *Silchar* [Silchar] of the 30th December complains that the river in Barakhala, in Assam, remains dry for six months in the year, but the ferry fee is nevertheless exacted from the passengers all through the year.

A ferry ghat exaction and gambling in Barakhala, Assam.

At Barakhala, gambling with cards goes on the public roads and wayfarers are cheated by the gamblers.

CHUNDER NATH BOSE,
Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,
The 12th January, 1901.